(c) whether it is a fact that it is necessary to improve purchasing power of farmers to remove the existing financial crisis in the country; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and the details of future plans of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) In comparison to base triennium ending 1990-91, the index of prices received by the agricultural sector for the year 1999- 2000 was estimated to be 223.1, higher than the index of prices paid estimated at 214.0. Also the farmer's income, which is reflected in the Gross Value Added of the Agricultural Sector including Animal Husbandry, Forestry & Fishing, has increased from Rs. 223,114 crores in 1990-91 to Rs. 290,334 crores in 1999-2000 at constant 1993-94 prices.

(c) and (d) The Government would continue to implement various thrust programmes and provide market / price support relating to crop and non-crop activities in the agricultural sector so as to improve the purchasing power of farmers in the country.

Variation in the annual growth rate of agriculture

3541. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:-

(a) whether it is a fact that the annual growth rate of agriculture in the country had remained different every year during the decade of 90's;

(b) if so, what has been the highest and the lowest annual growth rate during these years;

(c) the respective years during which this rate was the highest and the lowest during above period;

(d) whether it is a fact that production in agricultural sector in the country is still uncertain and is affected by the climate conditions; and

(e) if not, what is Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. During the decade of 90s, the highest annual growth rate of Gross Value Addition (GVA) in agriculture and allied sector was 9.6% in 1996-97 and the lowest was - 2.4% in 1997-98.

(d) and (e) The production in agriculture sector is largely influenced by the performance of monsoons as about 38% of net area sown is irrigated and remaining 62% depends on rainfall.

Financial assistance for earthquake in Gujarat

3542. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:
SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total financial assistance given to Gujarat Government by the Government of India, other State Governments, Voluntary Agencies and Foreign countries for relief and rehabilitation in earthquake affected areas;

(b) how much amount is sanctioned and released to citizens of Gujarat for repairs of residential, commercial and industrial units; and

(c) how much amount is sanctioned and released for new construction of houses, commercial establishment, industrial units, school-colleges and medical centres?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) In addition to release of Central share of Calamity Relief Fund of Rs. 127.10 crore for 2001-02, assistance amounting to Rs. 1467.37 crore from the National Calamity Contingency Fund was released to the State. The assistance received from other organizations / agencies for different purposes, as intimated by the State Government, is indicated below:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

(a) Education	5000.00
(b) Social Welfare	1000.00
(c) Rural Development (Indira Awas Yojana)	4900.00
(d) Energy	10962.00
(e) Water Supply	10000.00
(f) University Grants Commission	5000.00
(g) Asian Development Bank	35205.00
(h) World Bank	49078.00
(i) Indian Public abroad	22.80
(j) Foreign Institutions	55.71
TOTAL:	121223.51